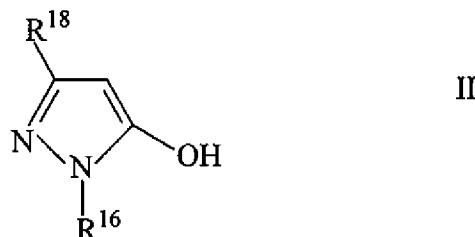
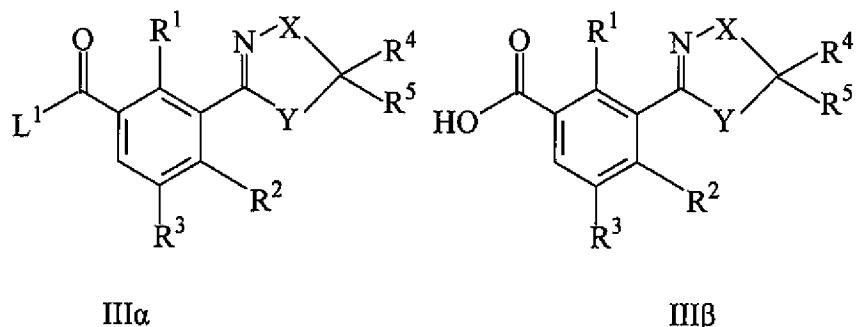


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

17. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of the 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I defined in claim 28, which comprises acylating a pyrazole of the formula II

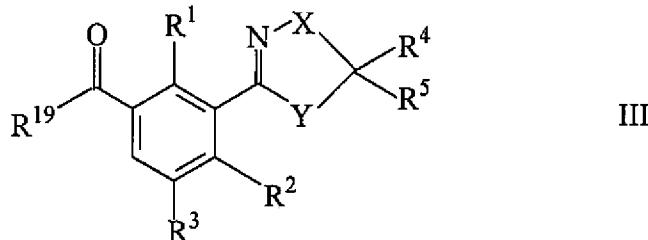


with an activated carboxylic acid IIIα or with carboxylic acid IIIβ



wherein L¹ is a nucleophilically displaceable leaving group, and subjecting the acylation product to a rearrangement reaction to give the compound I.

18. (currently amended) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III,



wherein

R¹⁹ is hydroxyl or a radical which can be removed by hydrolysis;

R¹ is C₁-C₂-alkyl, methoxy or methylsulfonyl;

R² is nitro, halogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₆-alkylsulfinyl, C₁-C₆-alkylsulfonyl or C₁-C₆-haloalkylsulfonyl;

R³ is hydrogen, halogen or C₁-C₆-alkyl;

R⁴ is hydrogen or methyl, and R⁵ is hydrogen;

X is O;

Y is CR¹³R¹⁴;

R¹³, R¹⁴ are hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxycarbonyl or CONR⁷R⁸;

R⁷ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl; and

R⁸ is C₁-C₄-alkyl.

19. (cancelled)

20. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 18, where R¹⁹ is halogen, hydroxyl or C₁-C₆-alkoxy.

21. (previously presented) A composition comprising a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt of I defined in claim 28, and auxiliaries conventionally used for the formulation of crop

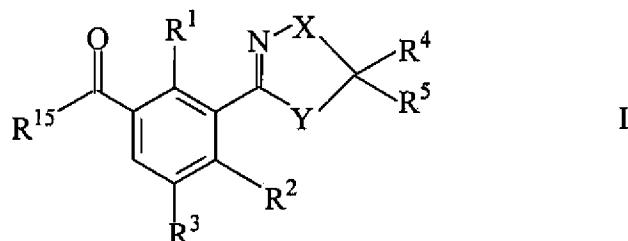
protection products.

22. (previously presented) A process for the preparation of the composition defined in claim 21, which comprises mixing a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt of I and auxiliaries conventionally used for the formulation of crop protection products.

23. (previously presented) A method of controlling undesirable vegetation, which comprises allowing a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt of I defined in claim 28 to act on plants, their environment and/or on seeds.

24. - 27. (cancelled)

28. (previously presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I



wherein

X is O;

R¹ is C₁-C₂-alkyl, methoxy or methylsulfonyl;

R² is nitro, halogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₆-alkylsulfinyl, C₁-C₆-alkylsulfonyl or C₁-C₆-haloalkylsulfonyl;

R³ is hydrogen, halogen or C₁-C₆-alkyl;

R⁴ is hydrogen or methyl, and R⁵ is hydrogen;

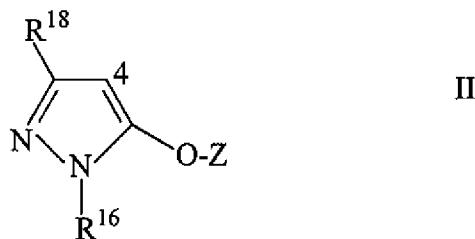
Y is CR¹³R¹⁴;

R¹³, R¹⁴ are hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxycarbonyl or CONR⁷R⁸;

R⁷ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl;

R⁸ is C₁-C₄-alkyl;

R¹⁵ is a pyrazole of the formula II which is linked in the 4-position



wherein

R¹⁶ is C₁-C₆-alkyl;

Z is H; and

R¹⁸ is hydrogen or methyl.

29. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein R¹ is methyl, R² is methylsulfonyl, R³ is hydrogen, R¹⁶ is methyl and R¹⁸ is hydrogen.

30. (previously presented) 4-[2-Methyl-3-(4,5-dihydroisoxazol-3-yl)-4-methylsulfonylbenzoyl]-1-methyl-5-hydroxy-1H-pyrazole.

31. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein R¹ is methyl, R² is methyl-sulfonyl, R³ is hydrogen, R¹⁶ is ethyl and R¹⁸ is hydrogen.

32.-33. (cancelled)

34. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula

I defined in claim 28, wherein R¹ is methyl, R² is methysulfonyl, R³ is hydrogen, R¹⁶ is methyl and R¹⁸ is methyl.

35. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein R⁴ denotes hydrogen.

36. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein R¹ is methyl.

37. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 35, wherein R¹ is methyl.

38. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 35, wherein R¹ is methyl, R² is methysulfonyl, R³ is hydrogen, R¹⁶ is ethyl and R¹⁸ is hydrogen.

39. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 35, wherein R¹ is methyl, R² is methysulfonyl, R³ is hydrogen, R¹⁶ is methyl and R¹⁸ is methyl.

40. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 18, wherein R⁴ denotes hydrogen.

41. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 18, wherein R¹ is methyl.

42. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 40, wherein R¹ is methyl.

43. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 20, wherein R⁴ denotes hydrogen.

44. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 20, wherein R¹ is methyl.

45. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 43, wherein R¹ is methyl.

46. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 45, wherein R² is methylsulfonyl and R³ is hydrogen.

47. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl- substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein

X is O;

R¹ is C₁-C₂-alkyl;

R² is C₁-C₆-alkylthio or C₁-C₆-alkylsulfonyl;

R³ is hydrogen;

Y is CR¹³R¹⁴; and

R¹³, R¹⁴ are hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl.

48. (previously presented) The composition defined in claim 21, comprising a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt of I, wherein

X is O;

R¹ is C₁-C₂-alkyl;

R² is C₁-C₆-alkylthio or C₁-C₆-alkylsulfonyl;

R³ is hydrogen;

Y is CR¹³R¹⁴; and

R¹³, R¹⁴ are hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl.

49. (previously presented) The 3-heterocycll-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 18, wherein

X is O;

R¹ is C₁-C₂-alkyl;

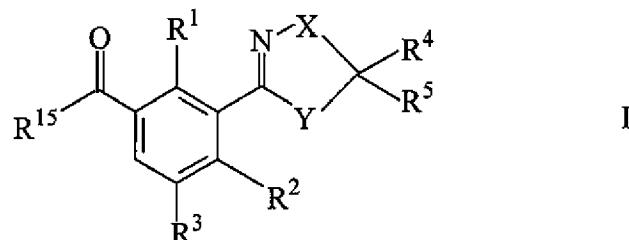
R² is C₁-C₆-alkylthio or C₁-C₆-alkylsulfonyl;

R³ is hydrogen;

Y is CR¹³R¹⁴; and

R¹³, R¹⁴ are hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl.

50. (currently amended) A compound represented by formula I



wherein

R¹ is C₁-C₆-alkyl;

R² is C₁-C₆-alkylthio or C₁-C₆-alkylsulfonyl;

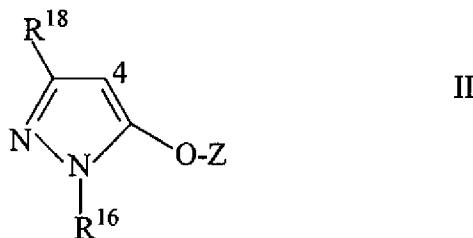
R³ is hydrogen;

R⁴ and R⁵ are hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl;

X is oxygen CR¹⁰R¹¹, wherein R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl;

Y is CR¹⁰R¹¹, wherein R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl; oxygen, and

R¹⁵ is a pyrazole of formula II



which is linked in the 4-position, wherein

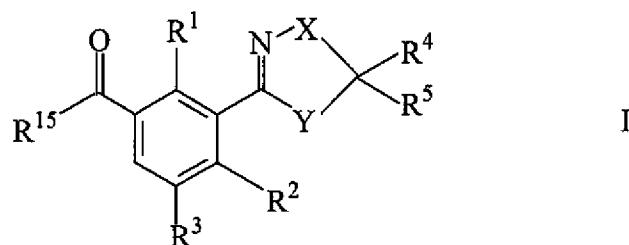
R¹⁶ is C₁-C₆-alkyl;

Z is hydrogen or SO₂R¹⁷, wherein

R¹⁷ is phenyl or phenyl which is partially or fully halogenated and/or has attached to it one to three of the following groups: C₁-C₄-alkyl and C₁-C₄-alkoxy; and

R¹⁸ is hydrogen or C₁-C₆-alkyl.

51. (new) A herbicide characterized by containing one or more compounds represented by formula I



wherein

R¹ is C₁-C₆-alkyl;

R² is C₁-C₆-alkylthio or C₁-C₆-alkylsulfonyl;

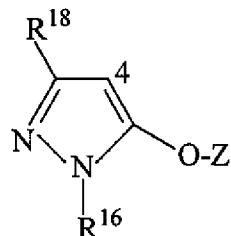
R³ is hydrogen;

R⁴ and R⁵ are hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl;

X is oxygen CR¹⁰R¹¹, wherein R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl;

Y is CR¹⁰R¹¹, wherein R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl; oxygen, and

R¹⁵ is a pyrazole of formula II



II

which is linked in the 4-position, wherein

R¹⁶ is C₁-C₆-alkyl;

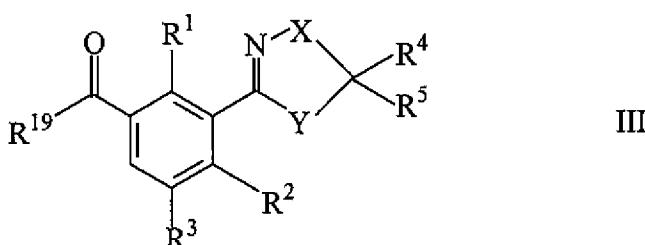
Z is hydrogen or SO₂R¹⁷, wherein

R¹⁷ is phenyl or phenyl which is partially or fully halogenated and/or has attached to it one to three of the following groups: C₁-C₄-alkyl and C₁-C₄-alkoxy; and

R¹⁸ is hydrogen or C₁-C₆-alkyl,

as active ingredients.

52. (currently amended) A compound represented by formula III



III

wherein

R¹⁹ is hydroxyl or C₁-C₆-alkoxy;

R¹ is C₁-C₆-alkyl;

R² is C₁-C₆-alkylthio or C₁-C₆-alkylsulfonyl;

R³ is hydrogen;

R⁴ and R⁵ are hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl;

X is oxygen CR¹⁰R¹¹, wherein R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl; and

Y is CR¹⁰R¹¹, wherein R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl oxygen.